REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action dated January 4, 2006, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 9 and 12-18 remain pending in the application. With this Response, none of the claims have been amended. Thus, entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

I.   Response To Claim Rejections

Claims 9, 12, 14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eslambolchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,422, hereafter "Eslambolchi") in view of Dahlen (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,454, hereafter "Dahlen"). Claims 13 and 15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eslambolchi in view of Dahlen, and further in view of Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,170, hereafter "Shaffer"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on the primary references of Eslambolchi in view of Dahlen to teach or suggest all the features recited in at least independent claims 9 and 18 of the present invention. The Applicant maintains, however, that neither Eslambolchi nor Dahlen teach or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 9 and 18, and respectfully requests instead that the §103 rejections be withdrawn. More specifically, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest at least *storing selector information designating a language that is allocated to a relevant subscriber for internal subscribers in the communication system.*

The present invention (as recited in claims 9 and 18) is directed to a system and method for translating messages directed to a called subscriber into a language that depends on the called subscriber. The system and method, in pertinent part, store selector information allocated to a subscriber in the communication system. Storing selector information means that there is an entry in the system's database representing the preferred language for each subscriber, which is revocable prior to any call attempt and is independent of a call.

The selector information is derived from the language of display messages chosen by the subscriber. In other words, the display language is the language in which messages on an LCD or screen appear to the telephone user. It may be selected by the user according to his/her language preference. For example, if a user selects French for display, the system determines that every language except French has to be translated for the user as soon as he/she becomes a

called party. Usually, this selection is done once and need not change as long as a particular telephone is assigned to the same (French speaking) subscriber.

In contrast, Eslambolchi teaches or suggests a method of translating message information generated by a calling and a called party in accordance with language preferences entered by those parties. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Col. 3, lines 14-26 of Eslambolchi for teaching or suggesting the "storing selector information" feature of the present invention.

However, the recited passages of Eslambolchi clearly fail to teach or suggest deriving a selector information from another piece of information, let alone deriving the selector information from the selected display language related to a subscriber. In particular, Eslambolchi relies on a call-by-call invoked inquiry of the calling and the called parties' preferred language. For example, a separate selection by a dialed tone (or by speech selection) regarding which language is preferred by both the called party and the calling party. Conversely, in the present invention, it is not necessary to perform such an inquiry regarding a preferred language. Instead, the preference is derived from information related to the preferred display language.
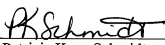
Dahlen teaches or suggests a method for unified messaging in which speech is converted to text and the converted text is subjected to a text language translation device (see, Dahlen, Fig 4, elements 80 and 95). However, there is nothing in Dahlen that teaches or suggests storing selector information designating the language of the subscriber. Moreover, after a detailed review of Shaffer, nothing in the teachings of that reference appear to overcome the deficiencies noted above in Eslambolchi and Dahlen to render obvious independent claims 9 and 18.

Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Eslambolchi, Dahlen and Shaffer, the combination still would not teach or suggest all the features recited in at least independent claims 9 and 18. In particular, *storing selector information designating a language that is allocated to a relevant subscriber for internal subscribers in the communication system.* Independent claims 9 and 18 are believed to be clearly distinguishable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Likewise, dependent claims 12-17 are also believed to be distinguishable over the cited prior art based on their dependency from independent claim 9.

II.   Conclusion

In light of the above arguments, the Applicant submits that the §103 rejections are improper and should be withdrawn. Additionally, the Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and requests a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 112740-078.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 4, 2006